

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Napoli on 9/30/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 21, line 2, after "five", add --of said--.

Claim 21, line 2, delete "of claim 1".

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are deemed allowable over the references Wang et al. (US 6,011,196) and Beihoffer et al. (US 6,072,101), since the combination fails to disclose or render obvious the uniquely distinct feature of an absorbent sheet including a plasticizing component which "is present essentially in its unreacted form".

While Wang et al. disclose an absorbent sheet having a superabsorbent polymer component, Wang et al. fail to anticipate or render obvious the distinct feature of a "plasticizing component present essentially in its unreacted form".

While Beihoffer et al. teach superabsorbent particles, Beihoffer et al. also fail to anticipate or render obvious the distinct feature of a "plasticizing component present essentially in its unreacted form".

Furthermore, the Examiner is relying on Applicants' arguments on pages 8-14 as the basis for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CATHERINE SIMONE whose telephone number is (571)272-1501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R. Sample/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/CAS/  
Catherine A. Simone  
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September 30, 2009